FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 OCTOBER 1983

Lebanon

Security Situation — One Marine was killed and five others were wounded on 16 October when U.S. positions at Beirut Airport came under fire from gunmen in southern Beirut, AFP reported citing a Marine spokesman. Lebanese Army positions around Beirut also came under fire despite continuing attempts by the Security Arrangements Committee to end the cease-fire violations. A Lebanese soldier died from wounds received, according to Beirut radio. Further south, the coastal road to Sidon was disrupted by renewed fighting in the Al-Kharrub region, the radio reported.

IDF-Shi'ite Clash in An-Nabatiyah — Israeli soldiers passing through An-Nabatiyah fired into a crowd of Shi'ites celebrating the 'Ashura' festival after their convoy was attacked by the crowd and their vehicles were burned, Jerusalem radio reported. Ten inhabitants were wounded in the incident but no Israeli soldiers were hurt, the radio said. Beirut radio accused the Israelis of committing a "horrible crime" against the Shi'ites and claimed that about five IDF soldiers were killed or wounded.

Political Developments — The venue for the National Dialogue Committee meeting scheduled for 20 October will be announced "not later than" 18 October, Beirut radio reported. The agenda for the talks consists of eight subjects including national accord, Lebanon's foreign relations, ending the Israeli occupation, the withdrawal of all other foreign forces not approved by the government, and internal reforms. Earlier, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri revealed that the venue for the talks will be inside Lebanon, according to the radio.

The Italian prime minister announced in Athens that Italy agrees to Lebanon's request for observers to police the cease-fire, Beirut radio reported. The Security Arrangements Committee had agreed to address official requests to Greece and Italy during its 15 October meeting, Voice of Lebanon radio noted. The meeting came after the Amal and National Salvation Front (NSF) representatives agreed to resume participating in the committee's work.

In another development, Syria's daily *Tishrin* warned that any "U.S.-Phalangist attempt" to obstruct national reconciliation and dialogue in Lebanon will be considered a violation and rejection of the cease-fire agreement, SANA reported. If this happens, the NSF will have Syria's complete support in absolving itself of the cease-fire agreement and resuming the battle against the "Phalangist regime" at the time and place it chooses, the paper added.

Meanwhile, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt held talks in Jordan with King Husayn, according to Amman radio.

'Arafat Blamed Over Tripoli — Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas, in a speech reported by SANA, blamed PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for "fabricating" the recent clashes in Tripoli during which the Lebanese Communist Party suffered heavy casualties at the hands of the Islamic Unification Movement. The Communist Party and several Palestinian factions including the PFLP and DFLP also held 'Arafat responsible for the killings, according to Beirut and Damascus radios. 'Arafat denied the accusations, however, telling PLO military leaders in northern Lebanon that his successful efforts to halt the fighting were being subjected to an "unfair media campaign" aimed at distorting the reputation of the PLO and its leadership, North Lebanon Voice of Palestine radio reported. A Fatah spokesman cited by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio likewise dismissed the charges against 'Arafat, asserting that the PLO leader's mediation efforts had spared the Communist Party further losses.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iran will block the Strait of Hormuz if it cannot export oil, but if the Iraqis succeed in partially disrupting Iranian oil exports, "it will not be in our interest to block the Strait," Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced in a Friday sermon broadcast by Tehran radio. He said Iran will "enter the arena" and do as it likes if it is unable to export oil and runs out of money, but added that he considers this eventuality "unlikely." The Majlis speaker claimed that it would be "easy" for Iran to block the Strait if it deemed this necessary, asserting that Iranian artillery at Bandar 'Abbas or on nearby islands could create a "wall of fire" over the Strait and that Iranian aircraft might use air-to-sea missiles. Iran could even close the Strait with Kalashnikovs, he said, adding, "our children can sit in small boats very close to the Strait." In any case the five Super Etendard aircraft which France has not yet "dared" deliver have little military value, Hashemi-Rafsanjani contended, and Iraq possesses other "much more dangerous" weapons which have achieved "nothing." He said the Super Etendards will be vulnerable to Iran's F-14 aircraft if they overfly Iranian territory, adding that the Iraqis will find it difficult to reach Khark Island with Exocet missiles and would need to use a trick to succeed. Nevertheless, he admitted that Iran's ability to defend its airspace is restricted "having only 70 or 80 F-14 aircraft."

The Majlis speaker also warned the Western powers that if they attempt to lift an Iranian blockade of the Strait of Hormuz by force, this would lead to an armed conflict, which Iran does not fear. Some "pampered" people in Iran might not like the shortages caused by a blockade of the Strait and might "chant slogans," he said, but they would be sent for hard labor in the desert.

Meanwhile, Paris radio reported that the whereabouts of the five Super Etendards remains a mystery. Although the French paper *France-Soir* claimed that the aircraft arrived at an Iraqi base near Mosul on 8 October, the commander in chief of the Iraqi Air Force announced on 15 October that the planes still had not arrived in Iraq, the radio noted. The Iraqi official explained that the delay is because the Iraqi pilots training in France are not yet ready to use the aircraft. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz stressed in an interview with the Paris magazine *Al-Mustaqbal* that Iraq hopes to avoid being "forced" to use the Super Etendards against Iran, AFP reported. In his 13 October press conference with French journalists, broadcast by Baghdad radio, President Saddam Husayn claimed that Iraq possesses a squadron of Mirage F-1 aircraft equipped with Exocet missiles.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Saddam Husayn announced at his 13 October press conference that Iraq no longer provides any financial or other assistance to Palestinian dissident leader Sabri al-Banna, whom the Iraqi leader referred to by the nom de guerre Abu Nidal. In his remarks, broadcast by Baghdad radio, the president also confirmed reports of Arab mediation efforts to settle Iraqi-Syrian differences, disclosing that Syria has been willing to discuss the possibility of reopening the pipeline carrying Iraqi oil through its territory. Meanwhile, the West Bank paper *Al-Fajr* reported that Syria has called on the Arab states to adopt a "specific position" toward the PLO as a precondition for improving its relations with Iraq and reopening the pipeline, according to Baghdad voice of PLO radio. In Damascus President al-Asad received Saudi Information Minister 'Ali Hasan ash-Sha'ir, who delivered a message from King Fahd on the current situation in the region, Damascus radio reported on 16 October.

Iran

A secret radio station controlled by the Iran Communist Party — "the successor" to the "defunct" Tudeh Party — began experimental broadcasts on 14 October, according to the clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio.

U.S. Plan for Jordanian Forces

Israel recently conveyed several protests to the United States over the plan to establish a Jordanian commando force equipped with advanced weapons and communications systems, the Tel Aviv paper *'Al Hamishmar* reported. Israel told the United States that it opposes any further strengthening of Jordan that is not coupled with a Jordanian declaration of willingness to proceed toward a political settlement with Israel, the paper noted.

Syria's daily *Tishrin* said that if the purpose of the special Jordanian unit is to intervene as a rapid deployment force in the Gulf this is "very strange and raises many questions" since it will divert Jordanian soldiers from protecting the border with Israel, SANA reported.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Italian Reparations — In remarks cited by JANA, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi told Italian journalists that the Libyan people's "psychological complex" over the colonial period could lead to war sometime in the future if Italy does not pay the reparations demanded by Libya.

Dispute With France — The Libyan ambassador to France, in remarks to a French paper cited by Paris radio, linked the detention of French citizens in Tripoli last week with the suspected Libyan terrorist currently facing extradition from France to Italy. The envoy warned that there may be "further repercussions" if the extradition goes through, the radio said.

Pakistan

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq met with a delegation of the Pakistan Muslim League-Pagaro Group, while the chief of the Armed Forces spent 3 hours with the head of the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal Party, according to reports by Karachi Radio and AFP. AFP said that during his meeting the head of the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal said "serious dialogue" can start only if parties are legalized and their leaders released. Meanwhile, in a conversation with newsmen in Lahore reported by Karachi radio, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq said separate talks are being held with various "defunct" political parties.

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Keshtmand Comments on When Soviet Troops Will Leave

BK141247 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] The prime minister of Afghanistan, Mr Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, says that they are fighting an undeclared war which is causing damage to the country besides disturbing its tranquillity. In an interview in Kabul with All-India Radio's special correspondent Premchand Arya, the Afghan prime minister said a large number of insurgents are being trained, armed, and dispatched from the territory of Pakistan.

He was asked as to when the Soviet troops will be in a position to leave Afghanistan. Mr Keshtmand replied that when the undeclared war against their country stops, when dispatch of armed bands comes to an end, and when the parties indulging in the undeclared war provide international guarantees, the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union will return to their territories, as he put it.

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Dost, Delegation Return From Cuba, UN Session

LD141508 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1245 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] Kabul, 14 Oct (BAKHTAR) — After completing an official and friendly visit to Cuba and participating in the 38th UN General Assembly session, Foreign Affairs Minister Shah Mohammad Dost and his delegation returned to Kabul this morning.

Shah Mohammad Dost and his delegation were welcomed at Kabul airport by Mohammad Khan Jalalar, minister of commerce; Sarwar Yurish and Sakhi Danishko, deputy ministers of foreign affairs; a number of high ranking officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Fikryat Tabeyev and Manuel Penado Casanova, ambassadors of the Soviet Union and the Republic of Cuba.

According to another report, Shah Mohammad Dost, foreign affairs minister and head of the DRA delegation to the 38th UN General Assembly session, met with the UN under secretary general on 11 October to discuss topics of mutual interest.

Delegation Leaves for Berlin CEMA Meeting

LD162037 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Sarwar Yuresh left today for the GDR at the head of a DRA delegation to attend the annual CEMA session in Berlin. The DRA will attend the session as an observer.

The delegation was seen off at Kabul international airport by Sakhi Daneshjo, deputy minister of foreign affairs; the deputy head of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the GDR ambassador in Kabul.

Sarwar Yuresh will later attend the UNESCO general conference which will be held in Paris on 25 October.

Reportage on Recent Mujahidin Activities

Paktia Province

GF141040 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] During the battles which took place between the Afghan mujahidin and the Soviet forces and the Soviet-supported government forces in Paktia Province, eastern Afghanistan, early this month, the Afghan mujahidin downed 2 Soviet warplanes and 1 helicopter and destroyed 23 tanks and 3 armored vehicles.

The AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS [AAP], spokesman for the Afghan mujahidin, reported today that these battles resulted in the killing and wounding of 145 from the Soviet and government forces. AAP added that 200 from the government forces joined the mujahidin's ranks.

'Heavy Fighting' Near Kabul

BK151034 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] There are reports of a big attack by the Soviet-Karmal troops at Kuh-i-Safi, about 25 km northeast Kabul. Reports say a large number of Soviet-Karmal troops supported by hundreds of military vehicles and tanks as well as bombers attacked several villages in Kuh-i-Safi areas late last month. The fighting, stated to be the heaviest, continued till the 2d week of this month. The mujahidin shot down three helicopters. According to one report, there were heavy civilian casualties and a number of Afghan mujahidin were also martyred in the attack by the Soviet-Karmal troops.

Qandahar, Paktia Fighting

BK161530 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, mujahidin during the first 5 days of this month killed 14 Soviet-Karmal troops as a result of their attacks in Qandahar. There are reports of mujahidin clashes with Soviet-Karmal troops in Paktia and Paktia Province. Details of losses inflicted on Soviet-Karmal troops have not been received yet. Another report says an Afghan Army driver joined the mujahidin along with a vehicle full of arms and ammunition.

Meanwhile, the Karmal regime has announced an increase in the curfew by half an hour in Kabul and by 2 hours in other large towns.

'Counterrevolutionaries Crushed' in Konarha

LD142236 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] A group of counterrevolutionary elements who had been disrupting the peaceful life of the people in the suburbs of Narang Subdistrict, Konarha Province, were recently crushed, along with their ringleader, (Abdol Latif) by officers and men of the sarandoy.

A Konarha Province security force spokesman said that one heavy machinegun, one mortar, a quantity of ammunition, and documents proving their links with counterrevolutionary elements abroad, were seized by the security forces.

Gandhi Discusses Violence, Sri Lanka, PRC, Bangladesh
BK150955 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] The prime minister has said that the recent incidents of violence in Delhi, Punjab, and some other parts of the country are a very serious matter. The lawbreakers have to be dealt with strictly.

Addressing a news conference in New Delhi this morning, Mrs Gandhi said we are deeply disturbed by what happened in these places and Srinagar. Terrorists have switched over to killing innocent people. Everything possible must be done to curb such terrorist acts. Expressing her deep regrets over these incidents, she conveyed her profound sympathies to the bereaved families and to the injured. Unfortunately, she added, when agitations are encouraged and government is blamed for everything, it does not become easier to deal with such situations. The question of violence always occupies a low priority on the agenda of opposition leaders meetings. She pointed out that the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir did not at first condemned the violence and the antinational episode that took place in Srinagar. Some condemnation was issued yesterday.

The prime minister's formal meeting with the press corps of the capital was the first after the nonaligned summit. It turned out to be the longest news conference and went on for 2 hours.

Replying to questions about the Punjab situation, Mrs Gandhi said we should not take any step which will lead to further deterioration of the situation.

She was asked why the government does not arrest the criminals who are taking shelter in Guru Nanak Niwas at Amritsar. She said it is true that some journalists and others have seen some people with Sten guns and other weapons there. The Akali Dal had denied this. But it is in their own interest to allow an investigation.

She denied having said that there was foreign involvement in Punjab. But, she pointed out, that all kinds of rumors are afloat and they need to be looked into. The center has agreed to almost all the Akali demands which were in its power to concede. But there are demands which concern other states. If there is an atmosphere of confrontation, it becomes more difficult to resolve the problem. There is need for a change in attitude. She appealed to the opposition to play their due role because if there is lawlessness, they also suffer.

A correspondent asked for her views on the pro-Pakistan activity in Kashmir. She replied that she is deeply concerned that some of these elements are getting encouragement. The recent opposition get-together in Srinagar gave indirect sustenance to such antinational elements.

Mrs Gandhi expressed her serious concern over the increase in communalism. But, she said, to ban any organization will not help much. However, their specific activities can be banned. She felt that efforts have been made in a planned manner to harm the country's unity. The government is deeply concerned about some of the provocative statements which have been made. Newspapers also should not publish anything which creates divisions.

The prime minister was strongly critical of the opposition for taking an attitude of total confrontation toward the government. The present government has been voted to power with overwhelming majority and it should be allowed to function.

About center-state relations, she commented that the opposition is trying to say that the country should be without a real Government of India. How can the country be kept together, she added, if the center is to have power over just four subjects as suggested by the Andhra chief minister.

Regarding Assam, she said the doors for negotiations are open. A solution does not mean that government should agree to everything which has been demanded. A middle way has to be found which meets their demands to the extent possible without causing damage to others.

Answering a question about elections, the prime minister said they will come when they are due.

On Sri Lanka, Mrs Gandhi said a dangerous situation is developing because the Tamil members of Parliament there will lose their membership. Such a problem cannot be resolved without talks with those who are mainly concerned.

Mrs Gandhi pointed out that there are Indian citizens involved as well as some stateless people, some for whom we have responsibility. She hoped that President Jayewardene and his party will not take an extreme view and will agree to speak to representatives of the Tamil people. She made it clear that India has no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka or any other country. But we are not in a position to take millions of refugees and we are not going to take them.

Replying to questions about China's reference to Sikkim as a separate country, she said the Chinese Government has made out a lot of claims which we totally reject. Sikkim is a part of India. But we feel that if we create an atmosphere of friendship, it will be easier to solve these problems.

Mrs Gandhi was asked about the objections taken by the chief martial law administrator of Bangladesh, General Ershad, to the fencing of the Indo-Bangladesh border. She replied we have to go ahead with the fencing because no country can allow infiltration from another country. Gen Ershad should have no objection to it and it was not a hostile act toward him anyway.

Answering questions on agriculture and the economic situation, the prime minister said the country is now self-sufficient in foodgrains. We are importing foodgrains from abroad particularly when they are available at the cheaper rate to build a buffer stock.

The prime minister began the press conference with a reference to INSAT 1B, which became fully operational today. She said it will be useful for providing the farmers with information on weather conditions and for educational purposes. The television

network will also benefit. The satellite became fully operational after 46 days since it was launched into space by the American space shuttle *Challenger*.

The prime minister vehemently denied the charge of a correspondent that there is political control over the official media and that Air and Doordarsan [All-India Radio and Television] have lost their credibility. How much credibility does your newspaper have, she retorted. She said there is hardly a day when she does not see a newspaper report which has no basis whatsoever. The press has a responsibility to check the correctness of reports before it publishes them, Mrs Gandhi said.

Additional Report

BK151629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Excerpts] The prime minister has said that the spurt in violence in the country is a very serious matter. We are deeply disturbed by what happened in Srinagar, in the cinema houses of Delhi, and in other parts of the country. The lawbreakers, she declared, have to be dealt with sternly. Mrs Gandhi was addressing a news conference in New Delhi this morning.

Replying to a question, she said she had no plan to visit Amritsar during Diwali [light festival]. Not that she did not want to go or was afraid of going there, but if she goes there and she is told that she should do this or else, then there would be no way out. We should not take any step, she said, which would preclude a settlement.

She rejected Pakistan's protest of Indian interference in their internal affairs. She suspected that their repeated protest may be an excuse for something they want to do or are doing.

Ordinance Gives Special Powers to Army in Punjab

BK151605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] A presidential ordinance was promulgated this evening conferring special powers on the Armed Forces in the disturbed areas of Punjab and the union territory of Chandigarh to deal with the law and order situation. The ordinance issued under Article 123 of the Constitution comes into force immediately.

The ordinance confers on the specified Armed Forces, powers to fire upon or use force against any person who is acting against law or order enforced there. It also gives them the power to destroy any arms dump or fortified position from which arms attacks are made or are likely to be made. Such an officer can also arrest any person without warrant for committing a cognizable offense. Ample powers of search and seizure have also been conferred.

Various Incidents of Violence Reported

Fire Exchange Near Amritsar

BK141554 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Text] In Punjab, some unidentified persons fired at a patrolling police party early this morning in a village near Taran Taran in Amritsar district. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, the police returned the fire. Four culprits were killed in the exchange of fire and one policeman has been seriously injured. The exchange of fire was said to be continuing when reports last came in this evening.

Explosion at Delhi Railway Platform

BK150853 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] At least 19 people were injured when a bomb was thrown at a platform in New Delhi railway station last night. The bomb, reportedly a grenade, was thrown by a person from a bridge over a road near the station. The incident occurred about an hour before the departure of the Delhi-Lucknow Mail. The injured have been admitted to nearby hospitals. They include five members of a marriage party.

The information and broadcasting minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat; the lieutenant governor, Mr Jagmohan; the police commissioner; and the general manager of the Northern Railway visited the site soon after the incident. Explosive experts have taken some pieces of the bomb for investigation.

Chandigarh Blast

BK151611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] In Chandigarh, 3 persons were killed and 24 injured when a handgranade exploded at a gathering after midnight last night. Of the injured, 22 persons were admitted in the hospital. The condition of 3 of them is reported to be serious; 15 of the injured have been discharged from the hospital by this evening.

The Chandigarh administration has announced a grant of 5,000 rupees to the next of kin of each of the deceased. Shops and bazaars in Chandigarh remained close today as a protest against the violent incident. Leaders of various political parties have condemned the incident.

Expressing sympathy to the families of the deceased and those injured, the union law minister, Mr Jagannath Kaushal, now in Chandigarh, called upon the political parties to set up peace committees in various parts of the state.

Mob Violence in Karmala

BK170300 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] In Maharashtra, four persons were killed, three of them in police firing, in mob violence at Karmala in Sholapur yesterday. Tension prevailed in the town after the clashes. Earlier, police resorted to tear gas as mobs went on rampage, attacking shops. The situation is now said to be under control.

Amritsar Shooting

BK170847 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] In Amritsar, one subinspector of Punjab armed police, Mr Amar Singh, was killed and a head constable, Mr Malla Singh, was injured today when two unidentified persons fired at them. The police officials were traveling in a bus when they were fired at. They boarded the bus at Patti town and were going to Hoshiarpur.

Two unexploded bombs have been found in two police stations in Chandigarh. The bombs bore Army markings. Investigation is going on. Meanwhile, police patrolling has been intensified in the city.

Ordinance Sets Up Tribunals To Detect Foreigners

BK160935 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] The president has promulgated an ordinance setting up tribunals for detection of foreign nationals who illegally entered Assam and other parts of the country after the 25th of March 1971. The ordinance comes into force in Assam immediately and in other states on the dates to be notified later. The tribunals will have the same powers as that of civil courts. The ordinance also seeks to set up an appellate tribunal for each state for deciding appeals from the tribunals. It provides for imprisonment up to 3 years and a fine for any attempt to disobey the order passed by the tribunal or the appellate tribunal.

Assam Chief Minister Comments

BK170945 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Oct 83

[Text] The Assam chief minister, Mr Hiteshwar Saikia, has said that there will be no harassment of genuine Indian nationals by the tribunals being set up for the detection of illegal immigrants. He told newsmen in Gauhati that nine tribunals will begin work this month in the first phase. He pointed out that a number of judges from various parts of the country have volunteered to serve on the tribunals.

Replying to a question, Mr Saikia said the detection of illegal immigrants will be taken up in a phased manner in areas where over three lakh victims of the disturbances of February this year are rehabilitated.

U.S. Military Facilities in Pakistan Listed

BK161439 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] A former chief minister of Baluchistan, Sardar Ataullah Mengal, has said that Pakistan is providing military facilities to the United States at a number of places. He named Jiwani Port, Ormara, Gwadar, Koh-i-Maran, and Mehdi Koh among the places in Baluchistan where such facilities had been provided to the Americans who would utilize these for their Rapid Deployment Force [RDF]. Sardar Mengal said in an interview in London that some American defense experts are permanently stationed in Quetta. He disclosed that an airport near Jiwani Port was expanded and improved about 6 months ago for use by the RDF while at Ormara, facilities had been provided for U.S. naval ships to come in. He said the coastal area of Baluchistan has been virtually handed over to the Americans in return for their support to General Ziaul Haq's regime. Sophisticated electronic devices for extensive surveillance have been installed at Mehdi Koh and several other places in the area which has become a restricted zone for Pakistan, he added.

Zia, Indian Janata Party Leader Discuss Relations

BK160150 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] Indian political leader and MP, Dr Subramaniam Swamy, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today and discussed matters of mutual interest. The meeting was followed by a luncheon in honor of the Indian political leader.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq said Pakistan desires to normalize relations with India on the basis of sovereign equality. He said President Mohammad Ziaul Haq desires the promotion of a cordial relationship between the two countries and Pakistan is persevering in its efforts to achieve this objective.

Referring to the political program announced on 12 August, the information minister said the president is determined to establish a permanent and durable political system in the country and that the local bodies elections are a first step in this direction. The recently completed local bodies elections were held in a very peaceful and orderly manner, the minister added.

Dr Swamy, the Indian Janata Party leader in the Lok Sabha, said there is a large number of people in India who support maintaining close and friendly relations with Paksitan on the basis of sovereign equality. He said the younger generation in India considers Pakistan an independent and sovereign state with which they should maintain good relations. It is now being understood in India that Pakistan is not a threat to India's security, Dr Swamy added.

Speaking later at a function in Islamabad today, Dr Subramaniam Swamy said the ambiguity and vagueness in the Indian attitude has led India to a crisis of confidence not only with Pakistan but with other countries of the region, including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. Indian policy toward other nations in the region does not conform to the prevailing situation. He said the initiative to resolve the differences should come from India and thereafter reasonable arrangements should be made in this regard, for which the time is now ripe.

He said the concept that India's defense preparations should be on the basis of Pakistan's capabilities while Pakistan should keep only India's intentions in mind while planning for its defense is not reasonable. India will have to change its attitude and accept that others have an equal right to do what India is doing.

He said a large number of Indians think that a strong Pakistan would be in the interest of India. Dr Subramaniam Swamy pointed out that a large section of the Indian population does not support India's present stand on Afghanistan.

He said India should stop its obstructionist attitude in matters such as Pakistan's reentry into the Commonwealth. India should have no objection to Pakistan's reentry into this organization. The Janata leader said countries of South Asia should evolve a doctrine to prevent intervention by the superpowers in this region.

Zia Comments on Ghaffar Khan

BK160945 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan has said that his regime cannot make an exception in the case of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and release him from detention. According to PTI, he conveyed this to the visiting Janata Party leader, Dr Subramaniam Swamy, in Islamabad.

Janata Leader Talks to Newsmen

BK161208 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] The Leader of the Janata Party in the Indian parliament, Dr Subramaniam Swamy, has said the Governments of India and Pakistan should talk to each other to remove all misunderstandings. Talking to newsmen in Karachi this morning,he maintained that it is not impossible for the two countries to have good relations.

About the Indian prime minister's statement on Pakistan's internal affairs, he said it had no justification. About Afghanistan, Dr Swamy said there is no justification for the Soviet troops to enter that country and there is even less justification for their stay there.

About Kashmir, he said it exists as a dispute and should be settled through negotiations. He said a great deal of normalization of relations is required for a solution. The Indian Janata Party leader said he was convinced of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's statement that Pakistan is committed to peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

Minister Describes Talks With 'Defunct' Parties

BK141615 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Excerpts] Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq has said the people want elected bodies that are formed in a peaceful atmosphere and, on this basis, the government is holding the current dialogue with leaders of defunct political parties.

Talking to newsmen in Lahore this afternoon, he said dialogue with political parties that believe in this viewpoint can only yield positive results and there is no use in having talks with those who do not believe in this and put hurdles in the way of the establishment of elected bodies. He categorically stated that these dialogues have been initiated purely in the national interest and it is not correct to say that the government has started them to gain time.

The information minister said that the talks are being held separately with various defunct political parties and it is not possible to announce separate decisions in this regard. The

outcome of these dialogues will be announced after completion of talks with other leaders of defunct political parties. Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq said that the success of the talks depends on the desire of the two sides. However, the talks with leaders of defunct Jamiat-ul-Ulema-i-Pakistan [JUP] are important. So far as results are concerned, the government, after having dialogue with the defunct JUP leaders decided to hold talks with leaders of other defunct political parties as well so that some useful results might be achieved.

In reply to a question on whether the government will hold talks with leaders of nonregistered political parties also, the information minister said that such a possibility cannot be ruled out.

AFP: Armed Forces Chief Talks With Opposition Leader

BK161545 Hong Kong AFP in English 1517 GMT 16 Oct 83

[By Michel Martin-Rolland]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 16 (AFP) — The military regime of General Ziaul Haq surprised Pakistani political circles today by opening talks with a senior opposition leader, in a bid to end two months of violent anti-government protests.

Armed Forces Chief General Khalid Mehmoud Arif, believed to be Gen. Zia's right-hand man, spent three hours closeted with the head of Pakistan's Tehrik-i-Istiqlal Party, retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan, at Abbottabad.

Tehrik Istiqlal, a moderate member of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) opposition coalition, is the country's third largest political party.

A party spokesman said Gen. Arif asked Marshal Asgar Khan to suggest modifications to the government's programme of Islamic democracy and thus allow a compromise with MRD, which has backed calls for an early return to the ballott box with two months of street protests.

(On the eve of the MRD protest campaign, President Zia promised to abolish martial law and arrange nationwide elections under a presidential constitution by spring 1985, but refused to clarify whether he would lift a ban on political parties.)

Marshal Asgar Khan told Gen. Arif today that he would first have to speak with his party colleagues, which he is currently unable to do because of house arrest, and said serious dialogue could only start if political parties were legalised and their leaders released from jail, the party source said.

Gen. Arif's visit sparked considerable debate in Pakistani political circles, which viewed it as the government's first sign of a serious desire to meet at the negotiating table.

The general is known to have Gen. Zia's confidence and has been entrusted with several delicate missions in the past, including negotiations two years ago on a key economic and military aid deal with the United States.

The prospect of governmental desire to open dialogue was also fuelled by talks this week between the regime and religious moderate parties, such as the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan and the Moslem League.

A number of right-wing politicians today did not rule out the possibility that Gen. Zia might hold out a conciliatory hand and offer to reschedule elections for next year.

But, observers said, the road towards dialogue was still long, as the main groups in MRD have declared their refusal to talk with Gen. Zia and demanded the immediate holding of free elections open to all political parties.

NAWA-E WAQT Editorial Examines Political Situation

GF161200 Karachi Nawa-e Waqt in Urdu 8 Oct 83 p 3

[Editorial: Political Problems Require Political Issues]

[Excerpts] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that he believes political problems should have political solutions. He said he will maintian contacts with those who are sincerely striving for the welfare of the country, but not with those who are involved in violence and subversion.

We have been hearing talk of such contacts and negotiations for the past 10 days, but any delay in actually holding such meetings will create new and wider ripples in the vortex of misunderstandings. The government's initiative in paving the way for such meetings reflects on the importance of the Jamiat-ul-Ulema Party, but some circles have simultaneously begun castigating and accusing the party, saying that it had planned to join the [antigovernment] campaign on 1 October but this move has "deflated its balloon."

Such taunts will incur needless opprobrium. The only positive way of halting this will be to avoid any further prevarication by accepting those demands — which are similar to the demands of other political parties — for which the party had planned to join the campaign. This would be a concrete example of "a political solution to a political problem" and would greatly help to remove misunderstandings.

The decision to have nothing to do with elements involved in violence and subversion is quite understandable. However, a realistic approach demands that not all members of the MRD should be considered in this category and that the door should be left open for those political parties which demand the solution of political problems in a political manner. This measure would be tantamount to positive progress toward internal and national unity which is necessary not only to improve the domestic situation but also to successfully counteract the external dangers and their implications, which appear to be looming overhead.

We hope that the president's words that "there is nothing to sorry about" are proved true but there are some shadows which are becoming longer and darker and which cannot be casually ignored by those who have a genuine concern and love for the country.

AFP: Sunnis, Shi'ite Clash; Demonstrations Continue
BK150038 Hong Kong AFP in English 0020 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] Karachi, Oct 15 (AFP) — Some 20 people, including two police, were injured Friday night in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, when thousands of Sunni and Shiitte Moslems clashed during religious festivities. The violence came after a day of new anti-martial law demonstrations in parts of Sind Province, with police in Lahore arresting three lawyers opposed to Pakistan's military rule.

In Karachi, eyewitnesses said several thousand members of the majority Sunni community stoned about 2,000 Shiites when they paraded by a Sunni mosque in the north of the city. Police had authorized Shiite activities marking the religious festival of Moharram despite Sunni threats of violence. Army troops were ordered to the city after the clashes and were patrolling the streets.

Violence has often erupted between the two Moslem communities during Moharram. Last winter more than 10 people were killed here during a series of such clashes, forcing authorities to impose a curfew lasting several weeks in parts of the southern Pakistani city.

In Lahore, the Punjab capital, authorities had been investigating 86 lawyers on charges of having organized last week members of the legal community opposed to alleged weakening of judicial power under martial law. Police raided the homes of three senior Punjab lawyers, bringing to six the number of lawyers arrested since the October 5 meeting, reliable sources said.

Meanwhile lawyers there called a protest demonstration for Tuesday, the sources said.

Anti-martial law demonstration were held in several regions of Sind on Friday. Supporters of the opposition Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) set fire to a government bus near Badin, about 100 km (60 miles) north of Karachi, after turning out the passengers. Police also broke up an opposition rally with tear gas in Ghotki, near Sukkur.

Amin Fahim, a leader of the opposition Pakistan People's Party, said the MRD campaign had become a "mission" and that the struggle would continue until the people's "objective of democracy" was achieved. He added some 400 people had been killed in Sind in the past two months.

Restrictions Imposed on Sind Gatherings
GF150932 Karachi Dawn in English 9 Oct 83 p 6

[Text] Sukkr, Oct 8: The district magistrate of Khairpur, Mr Ghulam Mohammad Memon, has, under section 144 CR PC [Criminal Penal Code] prohibited the assembly of five or more persons, carrying of firearms and other lethal weapons, raising objectionable slogans and delivering speeches which tend to create enmity and hatred among different sections/groups of the people, making any kind of demonstrations, writing of any inscription on walls, holding of public meetings, and taking out of processions.

The order, which took effect on Oct 7 will remain in force for a period of 60 days, in the whole of Sukkur District.

However, the order will not apply to any civil or military force, police or any other law-enforcing agencies, marriage or funeral ceremonies, taking out tazia [mourning] processions under valid licence.

The deputy commissioner, Larkana, has called upon the people to create an atmosphere of brotherhood and tolerance during Muharram and maintain peace and order in the district.

Addressing a peace committee meeting, he appealed to leaders of both Shia and Sunni to maintain cordial relations.

Yaqub Khan Returns From New York, Describes Talks
BK160925 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said the problem of Afghanistan will be fairly tackled when the General Assembly takes up the question of Afghanistan during the middle of next month. He was talking to newsmen this morning on his return to Islamabad after attending the 38th session of the UN General Assembly. He paid a 3-week visit to the United States in connection with the General Assembly session.

He said Pakistan conveyed to the UN secretary general its sincere commitment to pursuing a negotiating process that will achieve a just and comprehensive settlement of the Afghanistan crisis. He said the main purpose of his talks with the secretary general and his personal representative was the resumption of the diplomatic process. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said the secretary general's assessment of the situation was absolutely correct and complete, and this was reflected in the report submitted to the General Assembly on Afghanistan. He said the report commended the progress made in this connection and hoped that the pace of negotiations will be maintained. He said the secretary general's views on this was very positive, and he is fully aware of the importance of this pending problem.

The foreign minster said the diplomatic efforts of the secretary general's personal representative, Mr Cordovez, will continue. The date of his visit will be fixed at the next meeting after consultations between the concerned parties.

DAWN Says Iran Offers Antipollution Technique
GF150934 Karachi Dawn in English 9 Oct 83 P 6

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 8 — Mirza Taheri, deputy prime minister of Iran, who is visiting Pakistan these days, told a news conference here today that Iran was ready to transfer to Pakistan its anti-pollution technique.

Mirza Taheri, who is also chief of "environment protection body" in Iran, said he had a meeting with President Gen Ziaul Haq and the minister for food and agriculture here. The meeting, he said,

discussed, besides the Iran-Iraq war, many other things including cooperation in agriculture and environmental pollution control.

Mirza Taheri said the damaged oil-well, causing oil slick in the Gulf region, had been repaired.

He said he had discussed with the food and agriculture minister matters relating to the preservation of wildlife and the environment. He said that deep sense of cooperation and unanimity of views existed in these fields between Iran and Pakistan.

Mirza Taheri said Iran would always actively support measures taken for the good of the Muslim ummah.

He had come to Pakistan to attend an international symposium on bustards, which concluded in Peshawar yesterday.

He maintained that before revolution, some privileged sections of society utilised green lands and they were not aware of the ecological laws. The revolutionary government of Islamic Republic of Iran had included a provision in the constitution by which the protection of environment was constitutionally ensured.

He said there was a strict ban on the hunting of bustards, and with the exception of Khuzestan, where the bird had become non-existent due to the war, it was being preserved all over Iran.

SRI LANKA

Four Parties Invited To Discuss Tamil Issue

BK151614 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] President Jayewardene has invited four political parties to a conference next week to discuss the Tamil issue. The four parties are the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the Lanka Sama Samaja Party, the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna, and the Communist Party of Sri Lanka. The conference will be held next Wednesday evening.

(? Earlier) the government had lifted the ban imposed on the pro-Moscow Communist Party of Sri Lanka during the July disturbances. According to the presidential secretariat, the ban on the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna and the Nava Sama Samaja Party, however, will remain.

Special Envoy Comments on Indian Role in Tamil Issue

BK161603 Hong Kong AFP in English 0945 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Colombo, Oct 16 (AFP) — The special envoy of President Junius Jayewardene, who just returned from a seven-nation Asian tour, has said a more impartial attitude by New Delhi toward Sri Lanka's ethnic problems would contribute [to] resolving tensions between the country's Sinhalese and Tamil communities.

In his first interview since returning to Colombo, Hector Jayewardene, told the *Lanka Guardian* newspaper that for New Delhi to play a positive role, it needed to resist pressures from anti-Sri Lankan movements in south India calling for increased support for Sri Lankan Tamils.

He added that New Delhi should remember that India's ethnic connection with Sri Lanka was not confined to that between the Tamils in south India, and particularly in Tamil Nadu state, and those in the island republic.

The presidential envoy went on to say that New Delhi must try to "keep aloof from the south Indian approach and its antics," and should remember that last July's anti-Tamil riots, in which more than 370 people were killed, were caused by tensions and anxieties over "the determined policy" of Tamil militants to divide Sri Lanka by force.

At the height of the July disturbances, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi offered her "good offices" to help resolve the communal tensions between majority Sinahlese and minority Tamils.

In the wake of that offer, Indian External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao visited Colombo and special envoys exchanged visits between New Delhi and Colombo.

However, Mr Jayewardene told the *Lanka Guardian* that Mrs Gandhi's offer of good offices was not one of mediation, but was an offer to assist in "helping to break the deadlock" between Colombo and the main Tamil political party, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF).

The deadlock has been caused by President Jayewardene refusal to negotiate with TULF unless it gives up its call for the partition of the country, while the Tamil group has said it will not talk if preconditions are set.

Mr Jayewardene recently invited four opposition parties to attend talks Wednesday on the Tamil question, but TULF was not included.

Foreign Minister Hameed Returns From UNGA 15 Oct

BK161325 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs A.C.S. Hameed returned to the island yesterday after attending the United Nations session. Besides participating in the General Assembly debate, Mr Hameed also met several foreign ministers from the Western, Scandinavian, Latin American, Asian, and African countries for bilateral talks. Mr Hameed also briefed them on the recent disturbances in Sri Lanka and the steps taken by the government to restore normalcy.

Mr Hameed explained the present situation in Sri Lanka to the secretary general of the United Nations, the secretary general of the Arab League, representatives of the current chairman of the Islamic conference, and representatives of the current chairman of the Organization of African Unity. He also explained to them the steps taken by the president to find a solution to the ethnic problem in the country.

Letter Reportedly Reveals Libyan Link to TULF

BK141156 Hong Kong AFP in English 1130 GMT 14 Oct 83

[By Neville de Silva]

[Text] Colombo, Oct. 14 (AFP) — Sri Lanka announced today that it had intercepted a letter from a Tamil separatist group in south India to Tamils here which it said revealed Libyan support for the secessionists and linked a Tamil political leader to known terrorists. The letter was allegedly written by A. Pahirathan, son of Appapillai Amirthalingam, who is the leader of the main Tamil political party, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF). Mr. Amirthalingan is currently touring Western capitals to plead the cause of Sri Lankan Tamils seeking to establish an independent state in the north of the island.

State Minister Anandatiss de Alwis said today that the government was "most concerned with factors which have emerged from this letter," which was reportedly addressed to the leader of the Tamil Youth Front, a separatist group operating in the north.

The letter was written in Tamil, with English translations made available to the press today. One passage in the letter said, "Appah will look after the Libyan connection." The carrier of the letter, who was apprehended by the army during a random

search of persons returning from south India, said on state television last night that "Appah" was a reference to TULF leader Amirthalingam.

Mr. De Alwis said that this was not the first time a Libyan connection with Tamil separatists had been made, and that the government had already considered investigating such links. "When Mr. Amirthalingam returns, the government would naturally like to ask him, whether in view of what his son says, he still maintains he has no links with terrosism or with a Libyan connection," the minister said. Mr. De Alwis added that the matter had not yet been taken up with the Libyan Government, as the letter came into the possession of the security forces only recently.

The letter also referred to the purchase of an estate and jungle land in south India for the purpose of providing military training to Tamil recruits. In addition, it took responsibility for the recent murder of the chief organizer for Sri Lanka's ruling United National Party in the northern town of Vavuniya. "We have been publicising this fact in London and Germany to show that we are active," the letter said.

Mr. De Alwis pointed out that the letter indicated direct links between opposition leader Amirthalingam and those who plan terrorism in Sri Lanka. "Amirthalingam has often denied this in parliament and abroad," the state minister said.

According to the letter, Mr. Amirthalingam has had talks with two Sri Lankan Tamils who have been charged with terrorist acts and are now in India. Mr. De Alwis said that the security forces had several other letters in their possession which will be released later.

The carrier of the letter, Rajalingam Velluvan, a 19-year-old youth about to enter Jaffna University, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE last night that the letter was one of four given to him by Mr. Amirthalingam's son. He was arrested by the army about midnight on October 7 when the vehicle he was travelling in was searched. Mr. Velluvan said he did not know the contents of the letter.

The minister pointed out today that Mr. Velluvan was an "innocent carrier" and was in no way implicated in the affair. Asked whether the question of Tamil separatists operating from south India would be taken up with New Delhi, the minister said: "We must remind our friends across the border that we would like some assistance in maintaining law and order."

Despite the terrorist and foreign links, the government was still ready to discuss Tamil issues with TULF, if the organization would first disavow separatism, the minister said. [Words indistinct] apparently sparked off by the killing of 13 government soldiers in an ambush by Tamil separatists, claimed over 370 lives and left 100,000 people homeless.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Discusses War, Hormuz Strait

LD141658 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, provisional Friday Imam of Tehran, in the second sermon of this week's Friday prayers in Tehran, referring to the martyrdom anniversary of the fourth martyr-in-the-altar, Ayatollah Ashrafi-Esfahani, reminded the congregation of this martyr's efforts and self-sacrifices toward supporting the war fronts and paid tribute to these efforts. He said: This is an honor for the Islamic Republic and evidence revealing the discord among and terrorist nature of the hypocrites and other small groups.

Continuing his sermon with reference to the currents governing the war situation and recent propaganda, he said: At this stage and in these conditions, world arrogance does not wish the war to end, and all its noise is aimed at preventing an end to the war. When the United Nations, America, the Soviet Union, the West, and the region's reaction say that there must be peace, they lie. They precipitated the war to overthrow the Islamic Republic and to bring another shah to power so tha he would protect the southern potentates. They intended to shape Saddam in this way, but their calculations went wrong and today there is nothing left of the Qadisiyyah hero bu an aggressive and defeated straw man; those potentates are forced to tolerate a blow at the body of their exhausted economy for every shell or missile fired at Iran.

In contrast, our people adapted themselves to the war and made the impossible possible; our society became active and powerful. This irritates world arrogance because the Islamic Republic's policy has leaked across its borders and is being used as a model in Pakistan, the Philippines, Chile, El Salvador, and other parts of the world. World arrogance has to prevent us from achieving these victories, otherwise the world situation will change.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: They know well that their course is not a military one. Considering the long distance and unfamiliarity with the region, a few American divisions will not be able to act any better than 12 Iraqi divisions which knew the region and were familiar with it; nobody could fight in this region and achieve a better result than the Iraqis. Therefore, all their propaganda is aimed at putting us under pressure and giving credit to Saddam, so that both he and the war would continue so that world arrogance could sell its arms and so that countries such as France would be saved from crushing, economic bottlenecks.

Referring to the propaganda of world arrogance concerning Iran's oil wells and pollution of the Persian Gulf waters, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the wells were capped by the powerful hands of oil industry workers and thus foiled this propaganda.

The provisional Friday imam of Tehran, in connection with the new trick of world arrogance concerning the Super Etendard aircraft, said:

[Begin recording] This issue will not solve any of their problems. It will eventually add another problem to their existing problems. Regarding propaganda, we have a tongue too and make these explanations to enlighten our nation. In the first place, the combat power of these aircraft is greater than the aircraft owned by Saddam. His aircraft are weaker because their speed is less. For instance, if our aircraft chase them, they will be able to shoot them. This will happen if they come; therefore,they will have no effect. Their speed is about the speed of sound, a bit more; their range, instead of 300 km is 600 km or a bit more; but if they fly deep inside our territory, they will be faced with danger. Compared with our F-14 aircraft, they are many times weaker. Our aircraft's missile range is great, and we have more missiles than Saddam. Five Super Etendard aircraft alone have no combat value; if one of their pilots falls sick, if a spare part is missing, they will not be able fight. Having only 70 or 80 F-14 aircraft, we face restrictions defending our airspace, 70 or 80 F-14's. ... [chants of God is great, Khomeyni is the leader, Death to the United States, Death to the Soviet Union, and Death to Israel]

The only thing they can possibly do is this, the important point is this: They can do nothing on the ground. If you think that these aircraft will come to Tehran, Esfahan, or Tabriz, that is not the case, however, they carry a particular missile with flight characteristics making them work well over water. For hitting ships they are among the best arms in the Third World today. They can hit ships well; if they fire their missile from 70 km—provided that they have aimed well — the missile may hit the ship. Of course, this is not something new — it is an Exocet missile. The Exocet missile has such charateristics. They have used them before, firing them from helicopters from a distance of 40 km.

If Iraq receives these aircraft, the Exocets' operational range will increase by 30 km, that is, from Iraqi territory they can hit any ships which we want to send, for instance, to Bandar-e Mahshahr. It is not easy to hit Khark because it is 150 km from us and we can guard the sea with our F-14's. From that distance,it is very difficult for them to come I do not say they cannot come; they have to come by some trick.

Our pilots have said to us: Let them come; we hope they will come, with French pilots. Iraqi pilots are not competent enough to fly these aircraft. We will shoot them down over our territory and [rest of sentence interrupted by prolonged chants from the congregation, including "Death to France"]

They have not dared deliver them yet; they have made a noise; sombody says they have been delivered and another says they have not; a third says they are at the airport while a fourth says they have dismantled them and have given the parts to the Iraqis to assemble them themselves — they cannot assemble them. They have made up many stories and have made a noise to frighten us. What happens if they deliver them? That will be the end of the story; Iraq will possess five aircraft which do not have much military value. If they had military value, they would be able to hit some of our ships there. They claim that they will come to Khark Island and hit the ships there and will stop our oil. This is the ultimate danger they can cause. Of course, in my opinion, it is very unlikely. They have created the noise in a serious manner. They have created some for and some against it. Some say France's action is madness; others say France is acting in an irresponsible way; while some say France is engaged in trading death. Some say France is not paying attention to the responsibility of Western civilization, and some say France is bringing

calamity to all of Europe. While others say Iran is not giving up, Iran must be brought to the negotiation table.

Both sides are talking and making noise so that we will believe that they are telling the truth. Imagine they are speaking the truth, there is no joke in war. If that is the case, we must be prepared. First of all, we are prepared to defend and are confident. It has Soviet Tupolevs, which are much more dangerous than the other aircraft. It has MIG-25's which are much more dangerous. Some of the Mirages delivered by France before are much more dangerous. The Soviet (?Scud) missiles and the surface-to-surface Chinese and French missiles are much more dangerous, and they have achieved nothing. If that were the case and if they were brought into battle, there would be two possibilities—either we would shoot them down in midair or they would manage to hit some of our ships. Or, they could manage to close Khark pipelines. There cannot be more than these three possibilities. The first and second are nothing, that is, if they come and hit some ships, the situation would be as it is now — they hit them even now, even now they have Exocets and hit them — well, it is a war and there will be things like this, we tolerate them.

One of the West's provocations now that they are digging their own graves is that they say the Iranians have said from the beginning that they will block the Strait of Hormuz as soon as Iraq receives these aircraft, whereas they have not blocked it yet and they have retreated. Well, you have heard what we have said; they have heard it themselves; from the beginning, we have said it. We said it 2 or 3 months ago: We will block the Strait of Hormuz when we cannot export oil. Even if they hit half of our oil, it will not be in our interest to block the Strait of Hormuz. When we do not have oil, when we are unable to export oil, the Persian Gulf will be of no use to us since we will have no money, and the Strait of Hormuz will be of no use to us. That is when we will enter the arena and do what we like, although I consider such an eventuality to be very unlikely.

That day would be a very difficult one because, first, the world is not that mad to carry out such acts; there are only these noises at the moment. If the world went mad and risked this, then it would be evident that the world is prepared for a great disaster. It would be evident that the Western world has realized that life is not possible for it like this and wants to pin the blame on the war. On that day, we must prepare ourselves for aggression; if we do not want it, they will make it happen. The world will carry out this measure only if it is prepared for an unprecedented crisis in which the price of one barrel of oil would reach 100 dollars. This is not rhetoric.

About 7 million barrels of oil are currently passing through this strait daily. After the victory of our revolution, world oil production suddenly dropped by 5 million. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and others began to compensate for this because the strait was open. But because of shortages for 6 months, the price of oil jumped from $12 to $36. We saw this happen. Today, if the same thing happens, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Dubayy, and others would not be able to compensate for the shortage, because we will close the strait. They should not say that it is impossible to block it. They have been talking nonsense. For instance, a Kuwaiti shaykh said: If the Iranians decide to block the strait, they would require 240 ships to place in the strait. They think that we will place them in such a way that there is no room to pass! There is no need to close it this way. We can create a wall of fire with 103-mm guns, and you know how many we had and how many we have captured from the Iraqis so far. And you are aware that we are manufacturing the ammunition ourselves in our own factories here.

We could create a wall of fire over the Strait of Hormuz twice a day. On the island of Qeshm, we are very near the strait. Larak Island is right on the strait. Even from Bandar 'Abbas itself, we can use our 175-mm guns with a range of 48 km. Who would be able to approach the strait if we were to shell it with such guns from Bandar 'Abbas? You yourselves know that our planes are armed with many air-to-sea missiles. Our underground depots are full of such missiles, which we have not yet used. The Americans themselves know; the Americans are aware that we have not yet even used the planes that they gave us in the shah's era. These planes are more powerful than Exocets and have a longer range. We have not used them yet. There are many other things that they know we have. We can even close the Strait of Hormuz with Kalashnikovs. Our children can sit in small boats very close to the strait. Larak island is right in the middle of the strait. What is the matter with you? All this is known. They think that we are going to block it with a fleet of ships, so that they can sink our ships.

Apart from that, if a 300,000-ton oil tanker were to be hit and sink in the strait, the oil slick would make it very difficult to ply the strait. There are many other methods, of which they are aware. For instance, we can use the Port of Jask, or further east or west, or elsewhere. This sea is at our disposal. Generally, it would be easy to block the Strait of Hormuz, if we deem it necessary. Of course, I said we would block it if we think it would serve our interests. We do not want to block it now; but we could do it. I said that the security of the Gulf,in the first place, is in our interest. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the Emirates, Oman, and the rest of them use this area much less than we do. We use it much more. We will maintain the security of this area as far as possible. When this area becomes useless for us, then the whole world will be deprived and nothing will go out of here.

What would happen then? Suppose we reach the point when the Strait of Hormuz is blocked, then at that time we will have to give a few martyrs. It would not be like previous wars when we suffered many martyrs, because we know that blocking it is easy. What would be the outcome of this blockade? They think that Iran is dependent on the strait itself because it has so many ships plying the waters and so many factories that are dependent on imports. They therefore think that it would be suicide for Iran to close the strait. Of course, it would be suicide for us if we were like you. But we are not like you. We are a nation that follows the line of Imam Husayn and Karbala. We are a people who have planned our lives and revolution on the basis of the model left to us by Imam Husayn. You have seen that we mean it. We are telling the truth and we have proved it. The events of Karbala are being repeated in our society today. Our nation is prepared to put up with 6 months of hardship if necessary. It is prepared to deprive itself of luxuries because it would not be necessary to be deprived of basic living requirements. Our bread and water, fuel and traffic would not be disrupted. For instance, we might

be deprived of a refrigerator, because we would not be able to import a spare part.

It would not be hard for our nation to put up with such shortages. Of course, there are some pampered people who would not put up with such shortages. These pampered people might chant slogans. Then we would send them for hard labor in the desert. If the hard times were to come, they would not be allowed to stay in lines in Tehran and make us go to Sistan to grow wheat. No, we would send them to Kahnuj and we ourselves would stay here to run the country. [Cries of "Death to France"] On a day like that, our nation might take a giant step forward toward absolute self-sufficiency within 6 months. we have a place like Kahnuj where it is possible to sow wheat through all four seasons of the year. We have Jiroft which is a granary. We have a place like Jaz-Murian where it is possible to plant crops all the year round and its area could feed all the country if managed properly.

You others cannot put up with the shortages. If the 8 million barrels daily flow of oil to the West of Japan were to be stopped for 6 months, your greedy capitalists would put higher prices on the oil. Your capitalists are worse than ours. We also have such capitalists, who start hoarding products as soon as they hear of possible shortages. But your capitalists are worse than ours. They have started raising the price of oil even now. Yesterday, we heard that the price of oil had gone up by about $1, and nothing has happened yet. This is the nature of capitalists. Rich people are very frightened, first and foremost. They are cowards and frightened of the slighest trouble. Second, rich people are greedy and take advantage of every occasion to make money. This is the way they are. Capitalists are the same throughout the world and they cannot be changed. Of course, there are some exceptions where the rich are not greedy. Such people are not capitalists by nature; they have earned their wealth by being good managers.

It would not be possible for you others to put up with the shortages. Therefore, you would try to avoid it. You might resort to another option, that is, you might resort to force to open the strait in time. Well, this would culminate in war with arms. Are we afriad of being engaged in a war with you? See our examples of the Karbala martyrs and our own martyrs, then judge for yourselves whether we are afraid. In the history of mankind, our Imam Husayn is a symbol of martyrdom for the path of justice. The title of lord of the martyrs, given to this great personality of mankind, is indeed an appropriate title. The events of Karbala are an example today for us, for our women, children, young and old men. Those events are a guide for us to follow. [end recording]

Continuing his remarks, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi- Rafsanjani referred to the crushing answers given by the Iranian youths in the Saddamisrs' prisons as an example of Karbala epic and added: These young men are the great men of history and the heirs of Imam husayn. They might be small in stature but they are heroes of history. You would have to face such heroes.

Finally, the provisional Friday imam of Tehran read a sermon in Arabic.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,490

LD141720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,490 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday, the combatants of Islam, maintaining the upper hand in the positions under their protection, opened intensive artillery fire on enemy positions and units on the Piranshahr, Sar Dasht, Baneh, and Marivan operational fronts and destroyed four vehicles and one ammunition dump. On the border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam, sporadic exchanges of fire continued and our forces continued to defend their positions. Using heavy weapons fire on the Saddamist forces, our forces destroyed part of their fortifications and killed a number of Iraqi soldiers.

Exchanges of fire continued on the southern fronts and our forces foiled enemy reconnaissance and observation activities by keeping the enemy under continuous fire and disrupting their engineering and supply operations. Also, 17 foxholes and trenches belonging to the enemy and their crews were set on fire on the other side of the Arvand Rud. At 1945 on 12 October on one of the southern fronts, our patrol groups were involved in a confrontation with a group of enemy soldiers who were lying in ambush; they captured two of them. The rest of the Iraqi soldiers fled.

At 1150 yesterday, several points in the town of Marivan were bombed by enemy planes as a result of which six of our compatriots were martyred and several houses were demolished. The resistant city of Abadan came under sporadic fire by heavy enemy weapons as a result of which three houses and one office building received some damage. Parts of the city also caught fire.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,491

LD151842 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,491 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Sporadic exchange of heavy weapons and artillery fire continued yesterday on the Piranshah and Hajj 'Umran operational fronts between our forces and the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries. Our forces, while continuing to defend their positions, destroyed nine trucks, one ammunition dump,and part of the Saddamist personnel and equipment positions by heavy artillery and mortar fire.

On the Marivan fronts, the victorious combatants of Islam opened fire on Iraqi positions and defense lines in Panjwin,

(Roshan), Tutman, and (Batatuteh), stopping the enemy's fire and preventing the movements of its forces. They also inflicted heavy damage on enemy equipment and machinery, killing or wounding a considerable number of enemy personnel and destroying one engineering vehicle.

On the border fronts of Bakhtaran, Ilam, and the southern parts of the country, sporadic exchange of fire continued between our forces and the aggressive enemy. The forces of Islam, while defending their positions and continuing to work on their fortifications in the regions under their protection, opened defensive fire, dispatched patrols, and established observation posts, thus keeping under control the movements and construction activities of the Iraqi forces. Our forces disrupted the enemy's activities, silenced their heavy weapons' fire, and inflicted damage and casualties on the Ba'thist mercenaries.

Our forces in the Bakhtaran region destroyed an enemy mortar launcher and an ammunition depot and set ablaze a part of the Iraqi position. They also killed or wounded 15 enemy soldiers.

In the exchange of fire on Abadan and Khorramshahr, the proud combatants of Islam silenced the enemy's fire and opened heavy weapons fire on enemy positions and fortifications on the other side of the Arvand Rud. Our forces killed a number of Saddam's blasphemous soldiers, destroyed four foxholes and slit trenches, and stopped the enemy's movements and activities.

The city of Abadan yesterday came under Ba'thist artillery fire as a result of which several shops were damaged. At 1155 today, the criminals of the mercenary Saddam bombed the residential districts of Baneh and Marivan, demolishing several houses in Baneh, killing 20 and wounding 50 of our dear compatriots.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,492

LD161815 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,492 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. God's greetings to the lord of the world's free people and all the martyrs of history, His excellency Imam Husayn, peace be upon him, and his faithful followers, who have taught us a lesson in honor and freedom and how to live like Husayn. The conditions on the fronts of the battle between right and wrong during the past 24 hours are:

Yesterday, on the western fronts, our combatants continued to bring enemy trenches and assembly points under fire. Thanks to the heavy weapons' fire of the forces of Islam, enemy engineering activities near the fronts were halted. Our combative units brought the (Biyareh) Garrison under fire, silencing enemy fire and destroying several trucks and parts of enemy military installations. In the Baneh operational theater, exchange of artillery and mortar fire was in progress; an enemy engineering vehicle was destroyed by our forces' fire. In the area near Darband enemy engineering vehicles were seen in operation; their activities were halted thanks to our forces' fire.

On the Bakhtaran border fronts, the combatants of Islam, using various weapons, brought enemy positions and personnel under fire, destroying three trucks carrying personnel, an engineering vehicle, and several slit trenches and fox holes.

On the southern fronts yesterday, the forces of Islam identified enemy patrol groups and brought them under fire. Also, enemy artillery and armored units were brought under fire by our artillery units.

Yesterday, enemy heavy weapons' fire on Abadan wrecked three houses and caused damage to two buildings.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRNA Reports Developments on Western War Fronts

GF151731 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] Bakhtaran, Oct. 15 IRNA — An Iraqi missile base in region between Tuwailah and Balkhah of Iraqi territory was pounded by the heavy artillery fire of the forces of Islam on Friday as a result of which from 20 to 30 percent of the base was destroyed and scores of Iraqi troops were killed.

Exchange of fire continued in all western fronts over the past 24 hours during which an enemy loader, a vehicle, and a mortar launcher were destroyed while scores of the Iraqi troops were killed or wounded.

Meanwhile, two Iraqi fighter planes violated the Iranian airspace in Piranshahr at 10:00 hours local time today and were forced to flee without carrying out any operation as a result of the fire of the Iranian air defence units.

Prime Minister Visits Air Industry Workshops 15 Oct

LD161016 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi this morning inspected the Iranian air industry, which is affiliated with the defense industries organization. Mr Aqazadeh, minister of state in charge of executive affairs, and Colonel Salimi, defense minister, also were present.

During his visit, the prime minister inspected the workshops that make the parts and bodies for airplanes, the workshop where essential repair work for Phantom planes, F-5's, C-130's, and sea reconnaissance planes takes place, and the hangars where essential repairs to F-14 fighter planes are carried out in addition to other Phantom repair projects.

The prime minister also inspected the runways for Phantom planes, C-130's and F-14's and the engine testing chambers where various airplane and helicopter engines are tested. During the visit, repair and construction projects by the Iranian air

industry were explained to the prime minister at a session which included the defense minister and the managing director and officials of the Iranian air industry. These projects include a plan to expand Iran's air industry and a construction plan for the various departments making body parts.

The prime minister referred to the complexity of these industries and thanked the round-the-clock efforts of the experts and employees of Iranian air industries, who, in spite of supply and financial problems and restricted working space, have been able to carry out their worthy work in a satisfactory manner. While stressing the fact that all those who work for this industry are comparable to the combatants of Islam who fight on the fronts, Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi placed considerable importance on the implementation of the plan to expand the Iranian air industry and issued orders to facilitate and accelerate the work and to rectify existing problems. Emphasizing the importance of training an expert force in the industry, Mr Musavi said: (?Construction) projects aimed at self-sufficiency are of special importance. The facilities of other organizations should be employed to speed up these projects.

Free Voice of Iran Asks "Who Rules Iran Today?"
GF141911 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 14 Oct 83

[Station commentary:—"Who Rules Iran Today?"]

[Excerpts] Compatriots, can you say who rules Iran today? This is a question to which nobody can reply. To be more explicit, there is no answer to this question. This regime, so to speak, is run by a president, a prime minister, and the son of the imam. The imam's son holds a position above the prime minister and the president.

The holy imam sent for the governor generals and said: Although this is a repetition, two points must be repeated and recommendations must be made. First, you people should cooperate with the religious elements. I have given similar instructions to the clergy. Second, governors general, wherever they are posted, should support the government and strengthen the hand of the prime minister. If, God forbid, they create differences, this would cause a gap and that would be a blow to the Islamic Republic.

In this way, the holy imam lifts the veil from another point and shows that in the existing caravansary [words indistinct] the governor generals do not listen to the prime minister and the government. A governor general after all is a representative of the government. A governor general is appointed by the government for a province so that he will carry out the policies and programs of the government. If he does not carry out their instructions, he is dismissed and someone else is appointed in his place.

In the Islamic Republic, a governor general is neither elected by the people nor the government. If a governor general is not chosen by the imam or Hajj Ahmad Agha [Khomeyni's son] or by Hoseyn 'Ali or by Hashemi-Rafsanjani or by a local influential clergy and is appointed either by the president or the prime minister, then from the very day he arrives at his post, he comes to know that he is under the control of the local mullahs. From the very day he assumes charge, he is compelled to see that his private secretary and his assistants abide by the orders of the local mullah. He is forced to call on the mullah daily, in the morning and in the evening. He should kiss the hand of the mullah, submit his reports to the mullah, and obtain his instructions from the mullah. The governor general knows that his term of duty is in the hands of the mullah and if he does not give proper respect to the mullah, or if he takes a step against the interest of the mullah, he will lose not only his post, but most probably his life. The intervention of mullahs in the affairs of the country has no limit.

There is a power struggle among the mullahs also and the mullah war is fully known to that group of Iranians who know the case of Shari'atmadari. Another example is the war between the two local influential mullahs of Esfahan. A governor general who does not maintain the balance between the two local influential mullahs will come to harm. If he inclines toward one mullah, the other will take the revenge.

New Communist Party, Radio Station Reportedly Set Up
GF151757 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 15 Oct 83

[Text] According to a report by the Free Voice of Iran correspondent in Azarbayjan, a secret radio station by the name of Voice of the Iran Communist Party, the transmitter of which is probably situated outside the borders of Iran, began experimental broadcasts yesterday. This station said that the Iran Communist Party is the successor of the defunct Iranian Tudeh Party and that the members and leaders of the defunct Tudeh Party no longer have any responsibility.

According to this radio, in the first meeting of the congress of the Iranian Communist Party, the leaders of this new party — who most probably are members of the defunct Tudeh Party — demanded that a new communist republic be established in Iran.